

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel 2-19 without prejudice and add new claims 20-28.

20. (New) A method, comprising:  
establishing a set of occurrences of a physical event;  
determining a degree of association for each occurrence; and,  
identifying a subset of the occurrences having a degree of association less than a predetermined value.
21. (New) A method, as set forth in claim 20, wherein each occurrence includes an associated location.
22. (New) A method, as set forth in claim 21, wherein the degree of association represents a proximity between each occurrence and another occurrence.
23. (New) A method, as set forth in claim 22, wherein the proximity is based on at least one reference location..
24. (New) A method, as set forth in claim 23, the reference location being defined by a model of an at-risk population.
25. (New) A method, as set forth in claim 24, the model representing the spatial-density of the at-risk population.
26. (New) A method, as set forth in claim 21, wherein each associated location is an estimate of the location of the occurrence.

27. (New) A method, as set forth in claim 26, including the step of modifying the estimate of the location of the occurrence as a function of the degree of association.

28. (New) A method, as set forth in claim 20, the physical event having a parameter, each occurrence having a value of the parameter, the method further comprising the steps of:

comparing the value of the parameter of each occurrence with a second predetermined value; and,

including, in the subset, occurrences whose value of the parameter exceeds the second predetermined value.